

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, XG

SUBJECT: CSCE: PEACEFUL CHANGE -- ROMANIAN POSITION

1. ROMANIAN DELEGATION HERE IS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN THAT IT WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO OPPOSE TEXT OF NEW PEACEFUL CHANGE SENTENCE; ITS PLACEMENT IN FIRST PRINCIPLE ON SOVEREIGN EQUALITY; AND EFFORTS TO REGISTER TEXT IN NEAR FUTURE. THESE POINTS WERE MADE PRIVATELY TO US BY ROMANIAN DEPUTY DELEGATION CHIEF NEAGU DURING COURSE OF CORRIDOR CONVERSATION MARCH 11. HE ASKED THAT WE RESPECT HIS CONFIDENCE FULLY AND NOT RPT NOT DIVULGE ROMANIAN VIEWS TO ANY OTHER DELEGATION FOR TIME BEING.

2. NEAGU ADDED THAT SOVIETS ARE NOT YET AWARE OF LIKELY ROMANIAN POSITION AND HAVE BEEN TOLD ONLY THAT ROMANIAN DELEGATION IS SEEKING INSTRUCTION FROM BUCHAREST. ROMANIANS WILL REVEAL THEIR VIEWS ONLY WHEN SOVIETS REQUEST THEM DIRECTLY. NEAGU UNDERSTOOD USDEL MAY BE INSTRUCTED TO SUPPORT EARLY REGISTRATION OF PEACEFUL CHANGE SENTENCE IN FIRST PRINCIPLE AND DID NOT ASK THAT WE CHANGE OUR POSITION IN ANY WAY.

3. ON TEXT OF SENTENCE, NEAGU SAID IT READS LIKE AN INVITATION TO CHANGE FRONTIERS. ROMANIANS DO NOT WANT TO

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DISCUSS THEIR FRONTIERS WITH ANYONE AND WOULD PROBABLY

INSIST ON RETURNING ESSENTIALLY TO APRIL 5 FORMULA -- I.E., REINSERTION OF WORD "ONLY" AND REMOVAL OF COMMAS AROUND PHRASE "IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW". FINALLY, THE ROMANIANS OBJECT TO RUSSIAN TRNSLATION OF WORD A"AGREEMENT". NEAGU CLAIMED THAT RUSSIAN WORD IN QUESTION (DOGOVORENNOSTI) IS MORE PROPERLY TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH AS "ARRANGEMENT". THE ROMANIANS LIKELY WOULD INSIST ON STRONGER RUSSIAN NOUN "DOGOVOR". THEIR RATIONALE FOR THIS IS GIVEN BELOW.

4. ON PLACEMENT, ROMANIANS WOULD LIKELY PREFER TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY PRINCIPLE, NEAGU SAID, BUT DID NOT ELABORATE ON REASONS FOR THIS PREFERENCE. ON TIMING OF DISCUSSION OF PEACEFUL CHANGE ISSUE, ROMANIANS PROBABLY WILL INSIST THAT THIS SHOULD BE DELAYED UNTIL SECOND READING OF PRINCIPLES.

5. COMMENT: WE ARE UNCERTAIN WHETHER ABOVE ROMANIAN OBJECTIONS ARE REALLY SUBSTANTIVE OR WHETHER THEY ARE TACTICAL AND LARGELY DESIGNED TO GAIN LEVERAGE OVER SOVIETS, AND ALSO PERHAPS OVER FRG, WITH RESPECT TO OTHER ISSUES OF INTEREST TO BUCHAREST. END COMMENT.

6. THE ROMANIAN OBJECTION TO USE OF RUSSIAN WORD "DOGOVORENNOSTI", WHICH THEY CLAIM TRANSLATES AS "ARRANGEMENT", STEMS FROM AN EARLY POST WORLD WAR II ISSUE WITH SOVIETS, NEAGU SAID. SOVIETS ALLEGEDLY TOOK POSSESSION OF AN ISLAND OFF THE ROMANIAN COAST (NEAGU SAID IT WAS CALLED "SERPENT ISLAND") ON THE BASIS OF A WRITTEN EXCHANGE BETWEEN SOVIET AND ROMANIAN OFFICIALS -- I.E., AN ARRANGEMENT,

BUT NOT A FORMAL AGREEMENT. SOVIETS NOW ARE CLAIMING RIGHTS TO CONTINENTAL SHELF AROUND THE ISLAND, WHICH AMOUNTS TO A CLAIM TO PART OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF UNDER ROMANIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS, ACCORDING SOURCE. HIS AUTHORITIES DO NOT WISH TO ADD LEGITIMACY TO SOVIET CLAIM BY ACCEPTING WEAKER RUSSIAN NOUN "DOGOVORENNOSTI" IN THIS TEXT.
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